working in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

(b) The High Commission of India in South Africa has been in regular contact with the relevant national and provincial authorities in South Africa with a view to securing the best interests of our citizens in that country. A Committee appointed by the Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial parliament to look into this matter has submitted a report recommending that no terminations of contracts should be effected pending the conduct of a detailed investigation about expatriates in the province and that the requirements of communities should be taken into consideration on reaching final decisions. The report is under the consideration of the Eastern Cape provincial government of South Africa.

G-7 Countries Banning the Export of New Technology to Public Sector Companies

1717. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the G-7 countries had banned the export of new technology/machinery and materials to any of the Public Sector Companies in India;

(b) if so, the countries which have enforced the ban;

(c) the companies against whom the ban has been imposed; and

(d) the reaction of Government towards this action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) The United States Department of Commerce has notified four Indian Companies/organisations under US domestic legislation pertaining to US non-proliferation concerns. following this notification all imports from the US by these organisations will be under licence procedures.

(c) Two public sector companies-Bharat Electronic Limited and indian Rare Earths Limited and two research institutions—Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research have been notified.

(d) Government have taken up this matter with US authorities. India's exemplary record in not permitting export of dual-use items to countries where it could be used for non-civilian purposes has been pointed out.

Compensation to the Victims of Fire Tragedy at Mina

1718. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the actual number of Indians who lost their lives or had been seriously injured in the fire that broke out at Mina near Mecca on the 15th April, 1997;

(b) what are the details of compensation paid by Indian and Saudi Arabia Governments;

(c) whether Government have raised the question of safety of the haj pilgrims in future; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Saudi Arabia?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The number of Indian Haj pilgrims who are declared as killed in the Mina fire of April 15 is 170. The number of the injured is 424.

(b) Government of India has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rupees one lakh to the next of kin of each indian pilgrim killed in the fire. A similar amount will be paid to the permanently disabled. Further, free medical treatment has been made available to the injured with financial help as required. Rupees 10,000 each was disbursed to the seriously injured pilgrims who were hospitalised